

August 5, 2015

Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

We are writing to request a three month delay in the Commission's consideration of technical rules for the use of Channel 37 by unlicensed TV White Space ("TVWS") devices. Because the availability of Channel 37 for use by unlicensed devices has already been determined, a three month delay in establishing technical rules would not impact the timing or planning for the incentive auction. It is imperative that the Commission establish fully adequate technical rules for sharing, as those rules will impact the safety and use of critical medical monitoring technology for hospitals. We strongly urge you to give the medical technology stakeholders and the unlicensed community more time to work out a technical sharing agreement that will maintain the safe use of all devices in Channel 37.

Wireless medical telemetry service ("WMTS") systems for cardiac and fetal monitoring in hospitals have long used Channel 37 to operate without interference, which could severely impact patient health and safety. Hospitals and professionals rely on WMTS every second of every day to keep patients alive and safe. It is essential that WMTS devices can continue to operate without any interference from TVWS devices. As such, we urge you to give full and fair consideration to the comments submitted by more than 150 hospitals in over 40 states, as well as many nurses and other medical professionals, regarding the critical nature and substantial benefits of WMTS. The record also includes the results of real-world testing at three different hospitals demonstrating that interference to WMTS systems will be caused by a TVWS devices operating at the initial power-levels and distances proposed by the Commission.

We are encouraged that the WMTS Coalition and the unlicensed community have been working together to establish criteria that could be adopted by the Commission for when, where, and how unlicensed TVWS devices could operate on Channel 37, while ensuring that safety of life WMTS systems are not interfered with. We believe that this type of cooperation should be encouraged, and the parties should be given the time they need to arrive at a mutually agreed upon solution that protects WMTS systems and allows unlicensed TVWS devices to proliferate to the maximum extent technically possible around hospitals.

The Commission should not to rush the highly technical decisions regarding sharing of Channel 37, particularly when patient safety is at issue and when a short delay to enable continued stakeholder discussions would not delay the start date of the auction. Therefore, we ask you to remove consideration of the Channel 37 issues from the Report and Order in the Part 15 Rulemaking that will be considered at the Commission's August Open Meeting in order to give

the stakeholders at least three more months to forge an industry solution that protects patients while enabling the safe use of TVWS devices.

Sincerely,

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 20, 2015

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for your letter requesting that the Commission delay consideration of technical rules for the use of Channel 37 by unlicensed TV White Space devices.

I understand and share your concerns that Wireless Medical Telemetry Service (WMTS) continue to provide for critical patient monitoring without harmful interference. In recognition of these shared concerns, I have consistently stated that we will continue to provide for protected operation of these services in Channel 37. As you are aware, the Spectrum Act permitted the relocation of WMTS and radio astronomy services from Channel 37. After significant analysis, the Commission determined that these important services could remain in Channel 37 without compromising the goals of the Spectrum Act.

Additionally, I am encouraged that the WMTS Coalition and parties are continuing to discuss options for sharing this spectrum, and I look forward to any proposals the parties may bring to the Commission. However, it is important that we provide as much certainty as possible for operations in and next to Channel 37 to avoid delaying the incentive auction. For this reason, the Commission unanimously adopted the Report and Order at the August 6, 2015, Commission meeting.

The Report and Order adopted by the Commission includes a number of strong protections for WMTS. In all cases, white space device operators have the obligation to protect WMTS systems from harmful interference and eliminate such interference if it should occur. I am confident that the adopted rules provide many of the protections sought by the WMTS Coalition and a framework for continuing discussions between the stakeholders.

First, the separation distances are more conservative than originally proposed by the Commission in the fall. In fact, the testing submitted by the WMTS Coalition in July shows no interference to WMTS at distances ranging from 303 meters to 341 meters, well within the 380 meter separation distance adopted by the Commission.

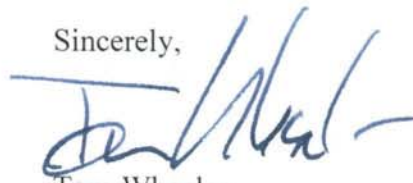
Second, should the default protection distances be too small or large for any particular facility, the Order adopts a process for the medical facility and white space device operator to agree on parameters that best suit a particular facility.

Third, the Order makes clear that we will not authorize unlicensed use of Channel 37 until we conduct real world testing in a few locations. These beta trials will allow the Commission, the Federal Drug Administration, medical facilities, and white space device operators to test the parameters provided in the Order and determine if any adjustments are needed.

Finally, as requested by the WMTS Coalition, the Report and Order provides a process for a medical facility to immediately restrict nearby unlicensed use of Channel 37 if harmful interference occurs.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 20, 2015

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

Thank you for your letter requesting that the Commission delay consideration of technical rules for the use of Channel 37 by unlicensed TV White Space devices.

I understand and share your concerns that Wireless Medical Telemetry Service (WMTS) continue to provide for critical patient monitoring without harmful interference. In recognition of these shared concerns, I have consistently stated that we will continue to provide for protected operation of these services in Channel 37. As you are aware, the Spectrum Act permitted the relocation of WMTS and radio astronomy services from Channel 37. After significant analysis, the Commission determined that these important services could remain in Channel 37 without compromising the goals of the Spectrum Act.

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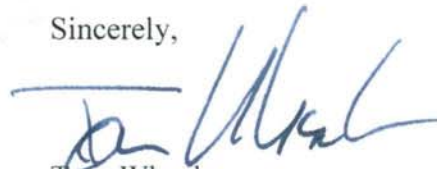
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Tom Wheeler



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THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 20, 2015

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow:

Thank you for your letter requesting that the Commission delay consideration of technical rules for the use of Channel 37 by unlicensed TV White Space devices.

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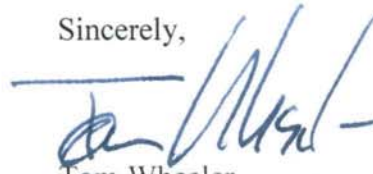
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Tom Wheeler